



United States
Department of
Agriculture

MAY 08 2009

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

Horst Greczmiel
Associate Director for NEPA Oversight
Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Greczmiel:

USDA – Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is providing to the Council on Environmental Quality our Section 1609(c) report for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), through the period ending April 24, 2009.

The enclosed report lists the four FNS program areas that received funding under the ARRA. Each of these areas has a unique Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol, as required by the Act. As noted in our report, USDA Departmental Regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act state that FNS programs are categorically excluded as shown in Section 1.b.4. The numbers reported in Column E on page 1 for 'Number of ARRA Funded Projects/Activities' represent the number of partnering State agencies receiving ARRA funds under our programs. The State agencies are then responsible for passing through these funds to local program operators and recipients.

It is important to also note that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP - formerly the Food Stamp Program) benefit money is not allocated directly to State agencies per se, but the funds are made available in the Federal Reserve Bank's (FRB) Account Management Agent system, to be drawn down as local retailers redeem SNAP benefits transacted at their stores and request payment from the FRB.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (703) 305-2161, or by email at Lael.Lubing@fns.usda.gov.

 Lael Lubing
Director, Grants and Fiscal Policy Division
USDA Food and Nutrition Service